



PRESS RELEASE

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District: District 6 – Fresno, Madera, Kings, Tulare & Kern Counties
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS COMPLETES STATE ROUTE 99 WIDENING THROUGH FRESNO

FRESNO – Caltrans today joined officials from Fresno and Madera Counties and prime contractor MCM Construction, Inc. to celebrate the completion of a \$68 million widening project on State Route 99 that will increase safety, reduce congestion and improve the movement of goods and services in the Central Valley.

“State Route 99 is a vital corridor through one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world,” said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. “This project expands the capacity of this highway to ensure that it can enhance the safe and smooth movement of both people and goods.”

This entire six-mile project converted State Route 99 from a four-lane highway to a six-lane highway, completing the final phase of widening through Fresno County. This project also included replacing the San Joaquin River Bridges and shifting them to the west. In February 2012, the first segment from Ashlan Avenue to Grantland Avenue was completed; the recently completed 2.9 mile segment is from just south of Grantland Avenue in Fresno County to just north of Avenue 7 in Madera County. The City of Fresno also made improvements to the Grantland/Herndon intersection and the southbound SR-99 on-ramp/Grantland Intersection.

This project was funded entirely by Proposition 1B, a 2006 voter-approved transportation bond. Proposition 1B authorized \$1 billion to be available specifically for safety, operational enhancements, rehabilitation or capacity improvements necessary to improve the SR-99 Corridor. Since its passage, more than \$19 billion in Proposition 1B funds have been put to work statewide for transportation purposes.

“We are pleased Proposition 1B funds continue to provide funding for local improvement projects, providing not just important highway improvements, but also generating much needed jobs in the Central Valley,” said Sharri Bender-Ehlert, Caltrans District 6 Director.

Fresno County now has nearly 32 miles of SR-99 designated as a six-lane highway from the Tulare/Fresno County line south of Fresno to the Fresno/Madera County line south of Madera. SR-99 has been identified by Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration as part of the Tier 1 Freight Network, for having the highest truck volumes and providing essential connectivity to and between key freight gateways and regions. Designating sections of highway in such a way helps states like California direct their road maintenance and improvement resources where they can have the biggest economic impact. The SR-99 corridor is a significant agricultural goods movement corridor and a major route for commuters traveling north and south within the Central Valley.

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